

Amendments to the Claims

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A piston and cylinder assembly comprising:
 - a cylinder defining a central bore and having an open rear end;
 - a piston slidably mounted in the bore and having a rear end defining a rearwardly opening concavity;
 - a retainer positioned in the concavity;
 - a pushrod extending forwardly into the bore through the open rear end of the cylinder and having a forward, head end captured by the retainer ~~and~~;
 - a clip positioned in the concavity and fixedly engaging the retainer to preclude displacement of the retainer from the concavity;
 - the retainer including a rearward circular rim portion positioned in the rear end of the bore, a forward socket portion capturing the head end of the pushrod, and a plurality of circumferentially spaced axially extending ribs extending between the rearward rim portion and the forward socket portion and configured to fit flush in the concavity, the clip being positioned in an annular groove in the interior of the concavity and in an aligned annular groove in the retainer defined by a series of circumferentially spaced notches in the respective circumferentially spaced ribs.
2. (Currently Amended) A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim ~~1-4~~ wherein:
 - aligned annular grooves are defined in the exterior of the retainer and the interior of the concavity; and
 - the clip is received in the aligned grooves.
3. (Original) A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim 2 wherein the clip has a "C" configuration and is formed of a spring steel.

4. (Currently Amended) A piston and cylinder assembly comprising a cylinder defining ~~and~~ a central bore and having an open rear end, a piston slidably mounted in the bore and having a rear end defining a rearwardly opening concavity, a retainer positioned in the concavity, and a pushrod extending forwardly into the bore through the open rear end of the cylinder and having a forward, head end captured by the retainer, characterized in that:

the retainer ~~defines~~ includes a forward portion having an arcuate cross-sectional configuration conforming to the cross-sectional configuration of a forward portion of the concavity and defining a generally spherical rearwardly opening socket;

the head end of the pushrod has a generally spherical configuration and is swively received in the retainer socket; and

the assembly further includes ~~a~~ an annular clip positioned in the concavity encircling and fixedly engaging the retainer and fixedly engaging the concavity to preclude displacement of the retainer from the concavity.

5. (Original) A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim 4 wherein the retainer is constituted by two retainer halves which coact to define the generally spherical socket.

6. Claim 6 is cancelled and rewritten as new claim 10.

7. Claim 7 is cancelled.

8. Claim 8 is cancelled and rewritten as new claim 11.

9. (Currently Amended) A piston and cylinder assembly according to claim ~~4~~ 4 wherein the concavity and the retainer, overall, have conforming, generally arcuate cross-sectional profiles whereby the entire retainer fits flush within the concavity.

10. (New) A piston and cylinder assembly comprising a cylinder defining and a central bore and having an open rear end, a piston slidably mounted in the bore and having a rear end defining a rearwardly opening concavity, a retainer positioned in the concavity, and a pushrod extending forwardly into the bore through the open rear end of the cylinder and having a forward, head end captured by the retainer, characterized in that:

the retainer defines a generally spherical socket;

the head end of the pushrod has a generally spherical configuration and is swively received in the retainer socket; and

the assembly further includes a clip positioned in the concavity and fixedly engaging the retainer to preclude displacement of the retainer from the concavity;

the retainer being constituted by two retainer halves which coact to define that generally spherical socket;

each retainer half including as rearward semicircular rim portion positioned in the rear end of the bore, a forward socket portion, and a plurality of circumferentially spaced axially extending ribs extending between the rearward rim portion and the forward socket portion and configured to fit flush in the concavity;

the clip being positioned in an annular groove in the interior of the concavity and an aligned annular groove in the retainer defined by a series of circumferentially spaced notches in the respective circumferentially spaced ribs.

11. (New) A piston and cylinder assembly comprising:

a cylinder defining a central bore and having an open rear end;

a piston slidably mounted in the bore and having a rear end defining a rearwardly opening concavity;

a retainer positioned in the concavity;

a pushrod extending forwardly into the bore through the open rear end of the cylinder and having a forward, head end captured by the retainer; and

a clip positioned in the concavity and fixedly engaging the retainer to preclude displacement of the retainer from the concavity;

the concavity including a forward portion having an arcuate cross-sectional configuration;

the retainer including a forward portion having an arcuate cross-sectional configuration conforming to the cross-sectional configuration of the forward concavity portion;

the concavity including a rearward frustro conical portion blending with the arcuate forward portion to define a rearwardly opening bowl shaped configuration.